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Yagel S, Silverman NH, Gembruch U (eds): Fetal cardiology: embryology, genetics, physiology, echocardiographic evaluation, diagnosis and perinatal management of cardiac diseases

**Martin Dunitz, London, 2003, X 593 pp with illustrations and tables
(ISBN 1-85317-905-1), £ 99.95**

Published online: 24 May 2003
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Fetal Cardiology, a new publication of nearly 600 pages, edited by Yagel, Silverman and Gembruch, provides the reader with information on embryology, genetics, physiology, echocardiographic evaluation, diagnosis and perinatal management of cardiac diseases. Numerous authors from many regions of the world have contributed to the book, in which current knowledge in the field is presented in a comprehensive manner. All of the 45 chapters are extremely well illustrated, with clear schematic drawings, tables and echocardiographic pictures. Many chapters describe individual diseases of the heart and vessels, others, such as that concerning hydrops fetalis, offer detailed knowledge on the cardiac causes as well as a general differential diagnosis and recommendations for diagnostic evaluations. In a

chapter on medical and interventional management of the neonate with congenital heart disease, an overview on mid- to long-term interventions in various congenital heart defects is presented. Medical management, technical approaches, are discussed in detail.

This first edition can be warmly recommended for each paediatrician interested in paediatric cardiology, paediatric cardiologists and those in training for paediatric cardiology, neonatology or intensive care and the libraries of paediatric hospitals.

From a more general point of view, and beyond its quality, this work confirms that we definitively have to extend essential paediatric knowledge to fetal development and its pathologies.